

by Washington with frankness and with expressions of a sincere and cordial regard for his nation. He immediately began a correspondence with Jefferson, the tone of which grew more violent as each unwarrantable request on his part was refused or each cause of complaint satisfactorily explained. Jefferson was throughout most conciliatory; but he saw the unmistakable trend of Genet's utterances. He expressed his apprehension to Monroe: "I do not augur well of the mode of conduct of the new French Minister; I fear he will enlarge the evils of those disaffected to his country. I am doing everything in my power to moderate the impetuosity of his movements, and to destroy the dangerous opinions which have been excited in him that the people of the United States will disavow the acts of their government, and that he has an appeal from the Executive to Congress and from both to< the people."

The culmination of Genet's indiscretion was reached late in June when he repaired the *Little Sarah*, a capture of the Ambuscade, increased her armament, and commissioned her from Philadelphia under the name of *Little Democrat*. Hamilton was the first to be apprised of the matter. He immediately communicated his information to Jefferson and Knox, Washington and Randolph being absent in Virginia. It was unanimously agreed to ask the aid of the State authorities of Pennsylvania: and these immediately entered into negotiations with Genet. Jefferson himself also' sought a personal interview with him, and found him much excited at what he considered

the discrimination of our government against his country. Jefferson succeeded in calming him, and pressed him to detain the *Little Democrat* until the President should return. Jefferson's sympathies* did not blind him to the serious nature of the questions that would arise if the vessel should sail; but they rendered him, one is impelled to think, too easily assured that "though she was to fall somewhere down the river, she would not sail." Hamilton and Knox were for erecting a battery and, until the President could be heard from, for forcibly de

*See France and England, page 217.